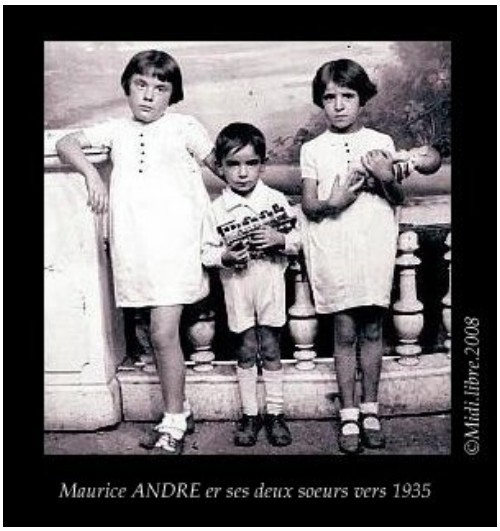
Site dedie au trompettiste Maurice ANDRE, french trumpet player - Biography

(Many thanks to my friend Ole J. Utnes for the english version !)

"There are lives and there are destinies. Maurice Andre's career belongs to the second category.
God put an amazing musical gift in his hands, his father gave him the trumpet, the mine gave him the force and the moral values,
Léon Barthélémy saw in this adolescent a prodigy, Raymond Sabarich taught him and his wife Liliane has followed
him and supported him all along his career. This is what I call Destiny, a destiny of light. Without destiny there cannot be
any genius. Work is not enough for Men, God has to mix in."

xxxx

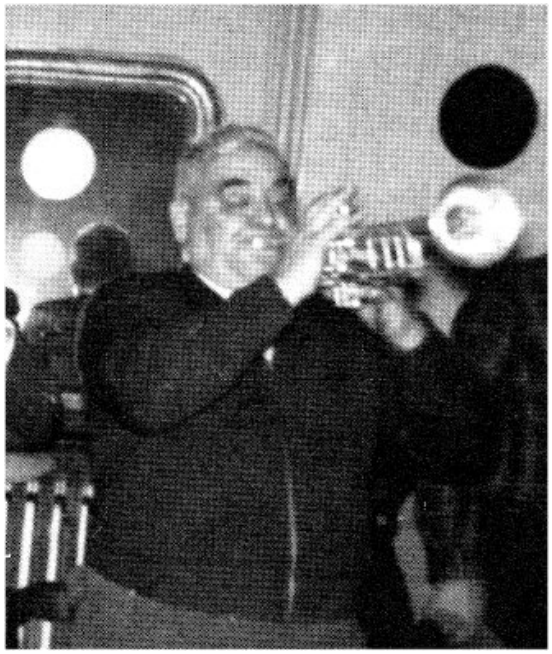


Maurice ANDRE with his two sisters, around 1935 © Midilibre.2008

Maurice André was born in the suburb of Ales (Gard), in the south of France, the land of olive trees and sun.
He was born in the little miner city of Rochebelle. His father was a miner but also a good trumpet player.
The young child lived in the little miner's city and began to know about trumpet through his father, Marcel-Jean André.
Maurice's father was playing in the Mine's Harmony and also in the Band of Alès.
He played very often for balls or under musical gazebos (kiosques.) In 1944, WWII compelled Maurice's father to send his son far
from Alès, in Lozère, a very rural department. This is where young Maurice began to study solfeggio,

during two years, before having touched a single instrument. The brother of Marcel-Jean André, Jean André, studied in Paris Conservatory
and after, joined the Navy Band of Toulon. He completed his career at Nîmes Conservatory where he was followed by Raymond André (brother of our trumpetist). What a family of musicians !

Marcel-Jean ANDRE (centre)



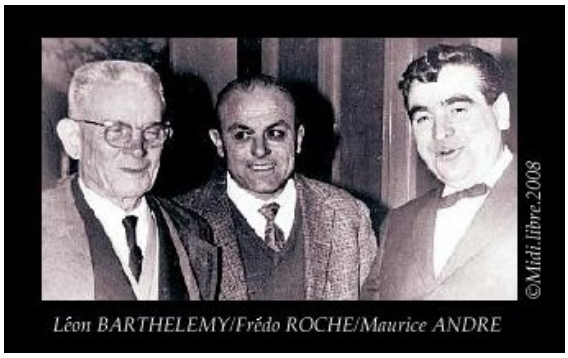
Marcel-Jean ANDRE playing the trumpet. © Brass Bulletin 1978.

Marcel-Jean ANDRE was a simple man who taught the real values to his children.
Maurice remembers that, in the house of his childhood, there was only benches around the fireplace.
His father said : "When we'll be able to buy a chair, it will be already the beginning of egoism."

(Srce. Conversation with Alain Duault)

It is his father who bought Maurice his first cornet Couesnon (which was in reality a gift from another person,
simply because Maurice's family wasn't rich enough to buy such an expensive horn.) Maurice André soon appeared to be a real prodigy.
He began to play with his father. Mr. Barthelemy (former Merri Franquin's pupil), professor at Nîmes Conservatoire was the first
to notice the huge talent of the young cornet player.

M. Barthelemy said to me : "The trumpet is
a rebarbative instrument one must
take with gentleness."



on the left : Léon Barthélémy

"My father, Léon Barthélemy and Raymond Sabarich are the three space rockets that launched me to the top. I, of course, do not forget Liliane, my wife." M.A

Mr. Barthélémy was the first teacher of Maurice and he directed him in the right way : hard work. Despite exhausting labor in the mine, Maurice kept on playing. A very serious accident was about to kill him.
He took some necessary rest but he kept on blowing. The passion for trumpet was already in his heart and it would never go away.

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He went to Paris at the age of 18. In 1951, he entered the Conservatoire (Street of Madrid) in the Class of the famous and handsome Raymond Sabarich. There, he worked hard, because Sabarich was a rude master, yet, very fair one.

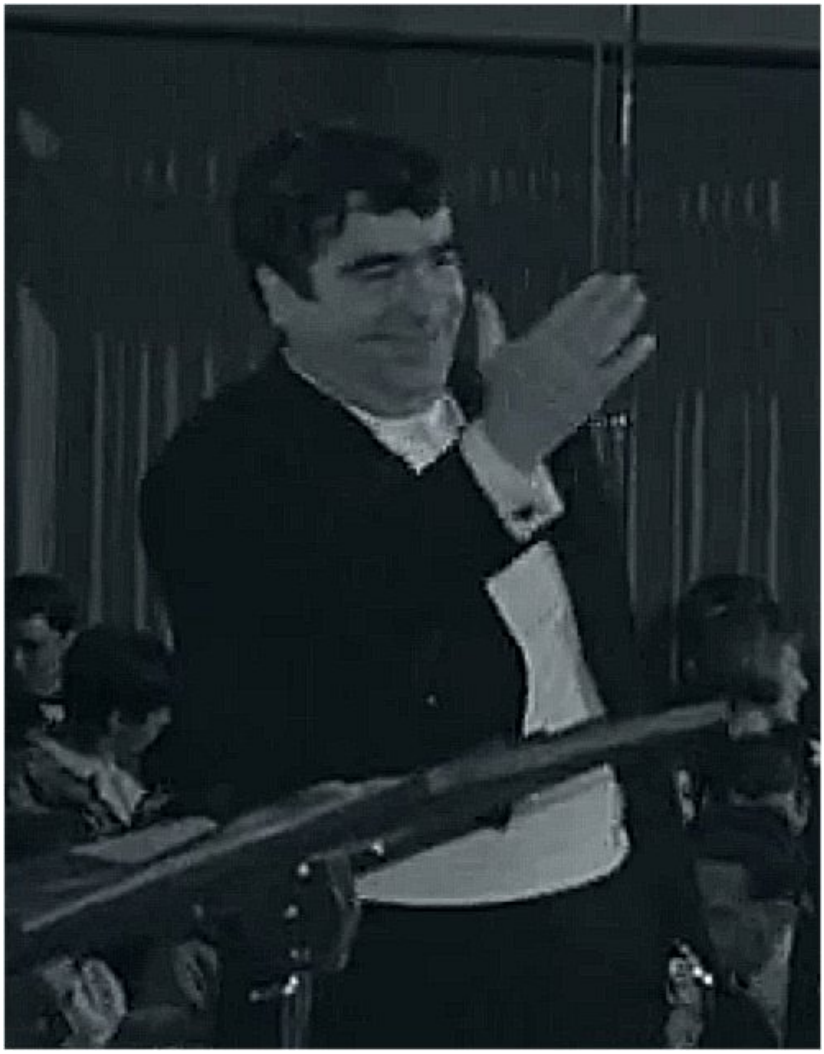
Note : Raymond Sabarich (1909-1966), was born in Toulouse. He's one of the three main founders of the French trumpet school (l'Ecole française de trompette) together with Merri Franquin and Eugène Foveau. Of course, J.B Arban remains the great "father". Listen to Sabarich playing an "Aubade" he composed (Radio France Musique).

J.-P. M.: *What did you work on with M. Sabarich at the Conservatoire?*
M. A.: Obviously the great Arban studies and then practice was done on things the teacher thought useful for each pupil. There were scales according to Balay [method], the "transcendental studies" of Charlier, those of Chavanne, finally all the classical repertoire. Now that I am myself teacher at the Conservatoire I continue to use these good old studies whilst combining contemporary studies in the programme by Marcel Bitsch, Charles Chaynes, Henri Tomasi, Raymond Sabarich, etc.

Maurice won the first trumpet price in 1953. His career had begun and would never stop. He then entered the Philharmonic orchestra of the Société des Conservatoires,

playing second trumpet , while Louis Menardi was playing the first one. Maurice played an Aubertin trumpet at that time (during 5 years).

In September 1953, Maurice was solo trumpet at the Concerts Lamoureux, yet, he played a lot, everywhere :
Medrano Circus, Mogador Theater...and finally he was engaged in the Philharmonic Orchestra of the French Radio (ORTF orchestra).



With the ORTF Orchestra
in Bade-Godesberg (Bonn) in 1969
playing Jolivet's Concerto

New horizons

In 1954, Maurice André won the Geneva International musical price of interpretation.
He began to work as a soloist. He played new repertories - unknown until then - and he touched a larger and larger audience.
By his work, his curiosity, his meridional (southern) strength, Maurice André was "raising trumpet to the top."

competition, decided - upon Roger Delmotte's advice - to register as a candidate to the Munich Trumpet competition
(age limit was 30. And he was precisely 30...)He won the first price : from this very moment, he entered the "hall of fame".
In concerts after concerts, he played the 2nd Brandenburg concerto - as Scherbaum did all his life. This music masterpiece has been one of the most famous music pieces in his large repertoire.

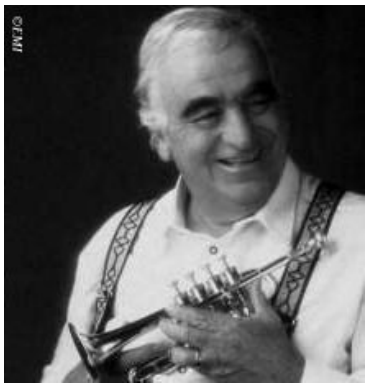
He met the greatest musicians of his time : Karajan (pronounce "Karjan", as Maurice does), Richter, Munchinger....
At that period, for some years, he could have given over 250 concerts.

The pedagogue and the mediatic man

In 1964, Maurice André was nominated as a professor at the Paris Conservatoire (it was Sabarich's post.)
He was teaching there with Ludovic Vaillant (Foveau's successor) and Roger Delmotte.

Among André's famous pupils we will mention : Guy Touvron, Bernard Soustrot, Thierry Caens and Jacques Jarmasson.
By Maurice's suggestion, the city of Paris created the International Trumpet Competition (The Maurice André competition.)

"The creation of the Maurice Andre's international trumpet competition is one of my greatest joys." M.A



Serenity

From the early 90s, the great artist left Paris and moved to the Basque country, where he still lives. His way of life is very simple and the peace of this land offers him the possibility to practice his other passion : woodcarving (sculpture in wood.)
In later years, his children, Be

taking a nap" in south dialect, means : taking some rest, sleeping.)
He worked all his life, improving techniques, learning new things, re-discovering so many forgotten music pieces...
He met many people, from every part of the world. Finally, he simply helped keeping trumpet music alive.
And *these* are the real manifestations of... a true genius.

Maurice Andre died in the night, between the 25th and the 26th of February 2012, in the hospital of Bayonne.

He once engraved on a sculpture he had made in memory of his dear friend Jean-Pierre RAMPAL (1922–2000) the following words :

(Photo by Klaus Hennch, courtesy of Nelly Eschke)

Some awards

1987 : Victories of classical music
2000 : Gold medal from Arts,Sciences and Letters french academy
2006 : American people vote for him as the "Best trumpet player in the world"

TOP 12 brass players of the XXth century

Maurice André (848)
Louis Armstrong (649)
Wynton Marsalis (485)
Arnold Jacobs (431)
Miles Davis (394)
Adolph Herseth (305)
Dennis Brain (276)
Dizzy Gillespie (263)
Christian Lindberg (243)
Philip Jones (173)
Maynard Ferguson (171)
Herman Baumann (160)

Distinctions

FRANCE : National Order of the Legion of Honor
ENGLAND : Member of the Royal Academy

*

Maurice ANDRE with his wife Liliane, a discreet woman,
with high human qualities, who greatly contributed to the career of the Master.
They celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary in June 2006.

The last 21st of May 2008, Maurice André was 75 years old.
The city of Alès organized a great homage to the trumpet player.

Midi Libre

Édition du jeudi 9 octobre 2008

Concert L'adieu à Maurice André

DR

A 75 ans, et un diabète qui le contraint à se déplacer en fauteuil roulant, le trompettiste Maurice André a fait ses adieux à la scène hier à Béziers, dans une cathédrale Saint-Nazaire où 600 mélomanes biterrois, des quinquagénaires aux nonagénaires, s'étaient donnés rendez-vous. Quelques jeunes aussi tout de même : une quarantaine de trompettistes en herbe venus de Béziers, Agde et même Lyon, ont rendu hommage à Maurice André. A l'origine de ce concert de Béziers, le professeur du conservatoire Claude Linon. « *J'ai encore de bonnes lèvres même si ce n'est plus le Maurice André d'il y a trente ans* », a insisté, lucide, le trompettiste. Avant de régaler le public aux sons de Haendel, Schubert, Telemann... Et en bonus un peu de jazz. Photo A. MARTY

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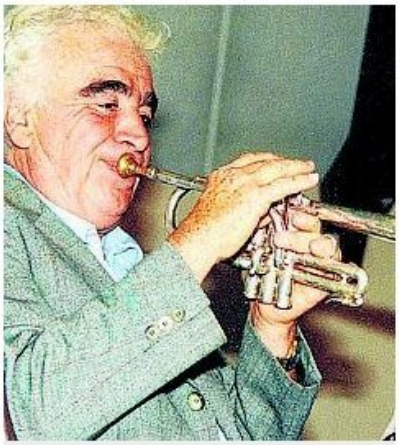
Édition du mercredi 8 octobre 2008

Classique Dernier concert de Maurice André à Béziers



DR

A 75 ans, le trompettiste met un terme à sa carrière de 56 ans, ce soir

Pourquoi avoir choisi d'arrêter votre carrière maintenant ?

J'aurais dû arrêter il y a cinq ans, mais j'ai retrouvé une seconde forme : on m'a refait les dents et j'ai pu jouer à nouveau. Depuis dix ans, on joue en famille et, désormais, la relève est assurée : quand mon fils, à la trompette, et ma fille, au hautbois, jouent, c'est magnifique ! C'est touchant de voir ses propres enfants qui reprennent votre métier.

Pourquoi Béziers ?

Ça s'est fait un peu par hasard. Je n'ai joué qu'une fois à Béziers : c'était il y a quarante ans et je me suis pris un bide phénoménal ; il y avait 40 spectateurs. J'avais dit : je ne reviendrai jamais jouer ici. Et finalement, j'y donne mon dernier concert ce soir.

Comment allez-vous occuper votre temps ?

Je fais de la sculpture, de la peinture, je réalise des objets d'art. Je donnerai aussi quelques master-class : j'ai formé 120 élèves au conservatoire de Paris et ça, c'est ma plus grande joie. J'habite désormais au Pays Basque et je vais aider les petites formations locales comme celle d'Urugne : je vais donner un concert gratuit. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que je ne ferai plus de disque.

S'il vous fallait retenir un souvenir... ?

Ce serait sans hésiter quand Herbert Von Karajan m'a demandé de faire un disque avec lui : c'était du Vivaldi, on a vendu plus d'un million et demi de disques. Quand son assistant a appelé, j'ai cru que c'était un copain qui me faisait une blague !

Comment expliquez-vous la longévité de votre parcours ?

Je n'ai jamais forcé pour jouer de la trompette, ce qui fait que je n'ai pas fatigué les lèvres qui sont un muscle. Et puis, j'ai été formé physiquement à la rude, dans les mines à charbon d'Alès où j'ai travaillé de 14 à 18 ans avec mon père. Ça apprend à vivre...

Recueilli par Arnaud CHABÉ

L – R: Béatrice, Maurice, and Lilliane André
(Photo courtesy Stephen Chenette)

"Without Liliane, nothing would have been the same. She played

(from left to right) Nicolas, Maurice and Beatrice
(copyright. Nelly Eschke)